

REMARKS

As set forth in the Office Action on Page 2, the title has been amended and the incorporation by reference as been removed.

Responsive to the rejection of Claims 3, 5, 8, 11-16, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, these claims have either been cancelled or amended to avoid the objected to language and therefore this rejection should no longer apply. With respect to Claim 3, note that the independent Claim 1 which incorporates the combination of Claims 1-3 includes modifications to conform to the intended description. In this connection, see paragraph [0019] of the specification.

With respect to Claims 11-16, and 18, the claims have been amended to recite that the upstream and downstream locations are with respect to the radiator, as described in the specification for example at paragraph [0015].

The rejections of Claim 1-10, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hanafusa (U.S. Patent 5,429,182) is hereby traversed and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested. The following is a comparison of the present invention as set forth in each of the remaining independent claims, and Hanafusa '182, including a discussion of the claim language deemed to define patentable novelty with respect to that reference.

The present invention is directed toward an arrangement and method for fastening a module to a vehicle body, and a vehicle assembly comprising a vehicle body with a module fastened in a particular manner. As described in the

specification, preferred embodiments of the invention relate to a novel arrangement for mounting a vehicle radiator module in such a manner as to overcome the problems that the limited vehicle body space for such assemblies experience. According to the preferred embodiments of the invention, the combination of inter-engaging fastening lugs and curved openings are provided, which curved openings have upwardly extending end areas so as to facilitate preassembly hanging of the assembly in position prior to lateral sliding to the assembled position. By providing the curved paths 25 so as in each case be directed in end areas upward against the gravitational force, the pre-positioning and final assembly of the arrangement is facilitated in a simple, economical, and reliable manner.

Hanafusa '182 does relate to the mounting of a radiator module, utilizing lugs and elongated openings at bracket 11. However, the respective elongated openings are not configured with end areas both extending upwardly so as to facilitate the pre-mounting and the final assembly as is provided for in each of the independent claims remaining in the present application. Accordingly, each of the independent claims, including those cited in this rejection based upon Hanafusa '182 under 35 U.S.C. 102, clearly define patentable novelty over said reference.

The rejections of Claims 11-16, 18, and 19-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based upon a combination of the teachings of Hanafusa '182 and Wurfel (U.S. Patent 5,915,490) are also hereby traversed and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested in view of the amendments to the claims and following remarks.

First, reference is made to the above discussed differences between Hanafusa '182 and each of the independent claims in the present application. Furthermore, Wurfel '490 does not include the specific teachings that would be necessary to modify Hanafusa '182 to meet the terms of these claims with respect to the openings having upwardly extending end areas to facilitate the pre-mounting against the force of gravity and the lateral sliding movement into the final assembled position, in the combinations as claimed. Accordingly, reconsideration of these rejections is in order and respectfully requested.


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration and favorable action on all the claims in the present application is in order and respectfully requested.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket 037/50187US).

Respectfully submitted,

June 13, 2003


Donald D. Evenson
Registration No. 26,160

CROWELL & MORING, L.L.P.
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
DDE:alw